



WLEB DAP AC Meeting Minutes
9/16/2020

- Greetings and roll call
 - Welcome back from Lou
 - Attendee list:
 - Marylou Renshaw, Sam Ennett, Abigail King, Anne Marie Schmrcek, Bowden Quinn, Jeff Frey, Greg Lake, Julie Harrold, Janel Myer, Doug Nusbaum, Sara Peel, Jill Reinhart, Rodney Renkenberger, Kathryn Sanders, Stephanie Singer, Derek Thompson, Sandy Voglewede, Cyndi Wagner
- Discussion of USGS auto-sampler network sediment and nutrient loading results and the implications for the Adaptive Management Plan
 - Nutrient and Sediment Loading in the WLEB Summary (Jeff Frey)
 - Partner funded (Ohio EPA, ODNR, IDEM, U.S.EPA)
 - Monthly equal width cross section samples with companion autosample
 - 5-8 flood event sampling
 - Minor flood event samples
 - Weekly or biweekly baseline samples
 - Spring Analysis is March 1 to July 31
 - 6,000 samples collected so far (plus 10% for replicates)
 - History
 - 2014-2015 7 sites in the Maumee + 2 sites in Ohio
 - 2017: added 5 new sites in Ohio (2 border sites incl)
 - 2018: Added 3 new sites in IN, 3 new sites in MI/OH, discontinued one site in Urban OH (focused on IN/OH border sampling)
 - Daily Mean Concentration and Daily Mean Loads with GCLAS
 - Estimating concentration points using curve of streamflow vs pollutant
 - Create a coefficient for discharge and season by computing sampling with companion autosample vs cross section sampling once per month
 - Takeaways so far:
 - None of the sites met target Spring FWMC for OP or TP
 - St. Joseph River contributes less N and P than the St. Marys River
 - St. Marys is a hot spot for P and both OH and IN need to decrease transport

- St. Marys at Ft. Wayne site has a slightly higher annual OP and TP FWMC than Wilshire, but yields are higher at Wilshire
- Very little difference between SR101 and Antwerp sites in 2019
- Hydrological oddity of 2019 (extremely wet spring) led to unplanted, fallow fields acting as a wide-scale BMP
 - Nitrate loads and FWC decreased by 22-50% in 2019 compared to 2018
 - No significant decrease in OP or TP in 2019
 - Legacy P from internal stream and soils might be an important factor (not commenting on Manure application, etc.)
 - 7.6 million acres of cropland in WLEB
 - 1.5 million acres in fallow in 2019 (major increase)
 - In 2018 Auglaize Watershed had relatively high NO₃ FWMC, St. Joe is low, in 2019 the FWMCs halved.
 - 2018 OP – St. Marys had highest FWMC (Wilshire (16) 0.16, site 15 (just south of Ft. Wayne) 0.17)
 - Questions followed about what dilution (more flow) on the St. Marys might mean in light of the OP results. Discussion ensued on the purpose of using the flow weighted mean concentration to account for or minimize flow variability
- Next steps for monitoring
 - SR 101 over the Maumee in IN v. Antwerp, OH:
 - Some concerns based on flooding that limited access to autosamplers
 - Compensated with discrete grab sampling increase in 2018
 - USGS's data comparison demonstrates there is no significant difference between the two sites; thus, as indicated in the DAP Adaptive Management Plan, IN will use the Antwerp autosampler data to determine its progress in meeting the P target loads.
- Revisions to DAP to reflect these
 - IDEM will work to revise the DAP to reflect sampling changes
- Discussion
 - Hot spots create a large difference, shows need to focus on critical areas
 - Legacy P and suspended P are significant concerns
 - Base data is published by Lake Erie Commission
 - Looking to publish 2018/2019 comparison separately
 - Want to continue analysis with GLRI funds
 - Would like link to Lake Erie Commission sent out
 - <https://lakeerie.ohio.gov/>
 - A question about manure application in less-than-desirable conditions from large facilities that needed to move manure (Jeff thinks that's a question for the future research)

- Update on the Pleasant Mills auto-sampler function and data
 - Cyndi Wagner's updates:
 - Autosampler installed in spring of 2019, some problems with power
 - Data from June 11-Oct 28 of 2019
 - Collocated USGS gauging station
 - Total P FWMC 0.37-0.38 (missing spring rain period)
 - COVID restrictions pushed sampling back to July 13, data from mid-August not back from lab. Autosampler will be pulled on Nov. 2nd and re-installed in the spring.
 - Help from outside staff allowed sampling of DRP grab samples
 - Fixed station data significantly under-reports P data
 - Auto sampler samples every 3 hours
 - Implications for the DAP
 - Revisions to DAP needed by the end of first quarter 2021, autosampling at Pleasant Mills will be continued because of insufficient data and the adaptive management section of the DAP will reflect this.
 - Hoped to see effects from sewerage and manure lagoons in reductions of TP
 - Want to commence *E. Coli* sampling as a more direct measure of the effectiveness of the sewerage and manure storage lagoons.
 - Greg has volunteered to possibly add bacteria sampling by Allen Co. SWCD in this watershed
 - Next steps
 - Lower cost sampling methods would be welcomed as an alternative to USGS equipment.
- Updates from members on activities, meetings, and implementation measures
 - Abigail King, Save Maumee Grassroots Organization
 - Sampling location (15) is across a tree planting site (550 trees)
 - Through a GLRI Grant, Save Maumee is acquiring (landowner wanted to "give" the property to Save Maumee) 58 acres of land that has a landfill on it surrounded by forested wetlands. Looking at options for an educational opportunity on the land.
 - Working on planting natives and removing invasives right now
 - Partnering with DNR, TNC, Forest Service to work on forest restoration (October 16-18)
 - Anne Marie Smrchek, City of Ft. Wayne Utilities
 - Completed a stream daylighting project on Schoppman Drain
 - Completed Lawrence drain 2-stage ditch project (1500ish ft) (South of the Meijer store on Illinois), next step is to work on flood plain letter
 - Design stage on regional water quality facility near Trier Ditch, includes 2-stage ditches, wetland creation and enhancements, bioswales, and walking paths
 - Moved to virtual public meetings due to COVID, felt like they are getting good turnout

- 3rd St sewer project is under way, the tunnel is more than halfway complete
- Looking at taking rain garden workshops virtual
- October Stormwater Workshop is turning into a series of virtual workshops (Tuesday's at 2:00), focusing on various GI and Urban BMPs
- Re-launching science committee to talk about sampling for next year and data dissemination, Lou would like to have that connected to the external data portal (IDEM)
- Bowden Quinn
 - Nothing to add
 - Complimented the members on their efforts
- Greg Lake, Allen County SWCD
 - Looking to reschedule River Summit to April 6-8, 2021 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday), want it to be in person. Let Greg know about conflicts.
 - Want to do an edge-of-field with livestock sampling project, working with Rod and siting is in progress.
 - Reviewed technology that can strip P from liquid waste manure to reduce the footprint of the waste distribution. Would like to bring that demonstration to IN.
- Julie Harrold, ISDA
 - IN Science Assessment for the *State Nutrient Reduction Strategy*, figure out the loads of nutrients leaving the state (WLEB, Ohio R, Mississippi), looking to improve process that ICP uses to determine loads on conservation practices (the current model does not take into account dissolved reductions). Have a contract with Purdue right now to hire a researcher to compare load reduction models and develop a table of conservation practice efficiency.
- Doug Nusbaum, DNR
 - St. Marys 04/headwaters park project completed
 - Phase 2 on Spy Run Creek in Franke park stream bank reconstruction completed
 - Partnering with FT. Wayne on projects
 - Funded design and planning projects that will go to bid soon (mostly stream and wetland restoration)
- Rodney Renkenberger, Maumee River Basin Commission
 - 3 grants, 1 active for acquiring homes in floodplains:
 - Current grant acquired 16 and demolished 16 houses, got 20 purchase offers homes in Ft. Wayne (waiting for supplemental payment)
 - 2018 grant for 9 houses in Decatur, 8 in Ft. Wayne
 - 2019 grant 10 homes in Decatur and Ft. Wayne
 - All grants totaled account for about 70 houses
- Kate Sanders, ISDA
 - ISDA grants moving, soil sampling and manure sampling underway

- Pooling efforts with Allen Co SWCD
- Looking at Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework model and tying it to use it for on the ground practices with farmers and how it improves their bottom line.
- Stephanie Singer, The Nature Conservancy
 - TNC, main projects on farmer advocacy to train 60 farmers in the Maumee watershed to beef up the communication to a target group of farmers at the beginning of a “soil health journey”, farmers are paid to go through the training. TNC would love recommendations for farmers (only 1 in IN so far). They have spots for 40 more farmers now.
 - Working with nutrient service providers on locating elevated P soil tests for fields and targeting those fields for BMPs with some monitoring, and educating nutrient service providers on extra options to reduce P leaving the field.
 - Jeff Frey wanted to know if the soil sampling data would be available to outside sources (3 large service providers that have shared data so far). Currently confidential data.
- Sandy Voglewede, Adams Co. SWCD
 - Did 2 tour plot events to showcase Interseeder plots that are coming up very nicely.,
 - Working with Purdue to fly drones over the plots to collect data
 - Nov. 17th scheduled for a meeting showcase
 - Continuing with the Amish Implementation Grant
 - Wrapped up CWI grant with Wabash River
 - Worked with Flatrock WMP
 - Have a LARE grant for bank stabilization just outside Geneva
 - Cover Crop plot and pollinator habitat at a local school as example plots
- Jeff Frey, USGS
 - USGS will open a field office in Ft. Wayne, 2 employees will move up, and will be located on Ft. Wayne-PU campus with Bob Gillespie
 - Got an additional year of funding for auto-sampler on the Maumee at New Haven and Ft. Wayne at St. Marys and they will both end at the same time. Want to talk about next steps.
 - GRLI funding available for an additional sampling site, Jeff can have a quick turn around
- Allen Haynes, Dekalb County SWCD
 - Agronomy Field Day – Underwent a revision for 2020. Was transitioned to Agronomy Series 2020. Now scheduled to be 4 separate, shorter events.
 - March 26 – Breakfast Kick-off meeting – Cancelled due to C-19
 - June 25 – Evening meeting at Producers Shop – Planting into Cover Crops - cancelled
 - August 27 – Evening meeting at Producers Shop – Equipment and Technology – cancelled

- December 3 – Breakfast Wrap-up meeting – Fred Whitford/ PARP session – TBD
- 2020-2021 LARE Grant
 - Received word our grant was chosen for funding
 - Project submitted as one application for two streambank sites within the City limits of Auburn
 - Submitted by DeKalb County Government as sponsor. This was done for grant administration; commissioners/auditor handle all grant funds
 - Oversight for the project is to come from Cedar Creek Drainage Board with input for the City of Auburn/Auburn Parks Board
 - LARE Grants fund up to 80% of the total cost of the project
 - LARE Grants require a 20% cash match from applicants – for this grant, the 20% is being covered equally by Cedar Creek Drainage Board/ DeKalb County and the Auburn Parks Board/City of Auburn. An inter-local was signed and put in place prior to the submission of the application outlining this arrangement.
 - Our application was funded for \$50,000. This means if we utilize the total amount of the grant the total project cost would be \$62,500. Based on a total project cost of \$62,500 the grant would pay \$50,000 with the remaining \$12,500 split between the City and County or \$6,250 each.
- Cedar Creek Collaboration – Listening, Learning, Exploring
 - Working with the “Conservation through Community Leadership” group from Purdue Extension to facilitate a conversation regarding Cedar Creek
 - Through facilitated meetings the group will develop a community action plan for guiding future work on Cedar Creek, specifically in the Indiana Scenic River designated area.
- Septic Issues
 - Continue to lead the Septic Issues – Collaborative Solutions Group working to address failed septic systems in DeKalb County
 - Current work is focusing on enforcement of recently adopted septic/sewer ordinance and the amazing work of communication between municipality and county agencies
- Action/Milestone table
 - Not covered
- Review of website and DAP revisions
 - Meeting in Early Nov. for revisions to the DAP, Milestone/Action Table, website and possibly the WLEB Story Map.
 - Will put out Doodle Poll to determine time